

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (currently amended) A compound capable of inhibiting β -secretase wherein the compound is of formula I:

R^1 -V-X-Y-Z-A-E-F (SEQ ID NO:~~59~~87)

(I)

or a variant thereof in which any of V, A, E and F is/are replaced by a conservative substitution,

wherein V, A, E and F are valine, alanine, glutamic acid and phenylalanine, respectively;

R^1 is chosen from hydrogen, acetyl, t-butoxycarbonyl and carbobenzoyl;

X is chosen from methionine, phenylglycine, n-leucine (n-Leu), asparagine, phenylalanine, glycine and valine;

Z is chosen from valine, α -aminobutyric acid (Abu), phenylglycine (Phg) and alanine; and

Y is statine, acha (cyclohexylmethylstatine) or phenylstatine (Phe-sta).

7. (currently amended) The compound of claim 6, wherein said β -secretase inhibitor is chosen from the group consisting of R^1 -VMStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:~~60~~88); Ac-VPhgStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:~~61~~89); R^1 -V n-Leu-Sta-VAEF (SEQ ID NO:~~62~~90); R^1 -VNStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:~~63~~91); R^1 -VFStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO:~~64~~92); and R^1 -V MPhe-staVAEF (SEQ ID NO:~~65~~93).

8. (Original) The compound of claim 7, wherein in said β -secretase inhibitor R^1 is H or acetyl.

9. (Original) The compound of claim 8, wherein in said β -secretase inhibitor R^1 is acetyl.

10. (currently amended) The compound of claim 9, wherein said β -secretase inhibitor is Ac-VMStaVAEF (SEQ ID NO: ~~66~~94).

11-14. (Canceled)

15-21. (Canceled)

22. (currently amended) The compound of claim 6, wherein the phenyl group of phenylstatine has mono or di-substitution chosen from the group consisting of Cl, F, Br, methyl and methoxy